

PROJECT 10073 RECORD

<p>1. DATE - TIME GROUP 23 October 65 24/0115Z</p>	<p>2. LOCATION Ex. C. Pass. Psy. - Lone-Prairie, Minnesota (1)</p>
<p>3. SOURCE Civilian</p>	<p>10. CONCLUSION ATMOSPHERIC OPTIC (PSYCHOLOGICAL) ✓ POSSIBLE THAT VENUS TRIGGERED THE REPORT Venus 16.53m W, 240 deg azimuth and setting at time of observation</p>
<p>4. NUMBER OF OBJECTS One w/three creatures</p>	<p>11. BRIEF SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS Object was as bright as the sunlight. A bright metallic shine. It took off straight up and then the light went off. Had a loud hum to it. Observer came around a bend in the road when he stated the object was resting in the middle of the road. He stated that his engine and lights shut off. Object took off straight up at approx 20 mph. Observer stated his lights came on and the motor started without touching the starter or light switch. Observer reported sighting to local sheriff's office. They both went back to area of the object and found nothing</p>
<p>5. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION 5 minutes</p>	
<p>6. TYPE OF OBSERVATION Ground-Visual</p>	
<p>7. COURSE East</p>	
<p>8. PHOTOS <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No</p>	
<p>9. PHYSICAL EVIDENCE <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No</p>	

FORM
FTD SEP 63 0-329 (TDE) Previous editions of this form may be used.

ex JATte month file

A/C 602

CE-III Catalogue

CEII + CEIII

Aerial Phenomena Research Organization

XXXX DESERT PLACE 3910 E. Kleindale Rd.

EA 6-0059

TUCSON, ARIZONA

27 Oct. 1965

Sherry Jain

732-2157

Bain

30-4d

612/ KEYL
732-3021

Dear Alan:

We are investigating a landing near Long Prairie, Minnesota (northwest of Minneapolis) which took place on the 23rd (last Sat.) at 7:15. The principal witness is a young (19) radio announcer named Jerry Townsend who has a good reputation. There are at least four corroborating witnesses to the object's taking-off. Townsend was driving west toward Long Prairie, and when 4 miles from the town, in rolling hill country, he rounded a curve, saw a rocket-shaped object, silver in color, standing in the road ahead. His car engine and lights stopped. Object 20-30 feet high, about ten feet "thick", standing on fins, light coming from the bottom. Townsend got out of the car, started toward the "rocket," whereupon three little (about 3 feet high, I believe) "things" came around from behind the object and started toward. "I lost all interest to going any nearer", he said, and went back to his car. The "creatures" were brown or black, cylindrical in shape, had very thin "arms", and walked on two "fins", and a third one came down and rested on the ground when they stopped. They stopped, apparently observing Townsend and he stared at them. Then they got into the object from underneath, apparently, and the object left, streaming white light from its underside and making a high-pitched sound which hurt Townsend's ears.

Three coon hunters in a nearby field who were returning after the hunt allegedly saw the object leave, and we have information that a salesman on the same road and a farm woman in a car also saw it - but when, we don't know---yet. We have a Bearing Company executive on the trail of the witnesses and have already got out inquiries about Town-

send's reputation.

Townsend seems very cooperative and when I told him that we were submitting certain cases to scientists for study and evaluation he said, "Hallelujah", and when asked if he was interested in UFOs or belonged to a club, he said he read about them in the papers, had had an open mind, but didn't know groups such as APRO even existed. I talked to him about 10 minutes via telephone.

I also talked to the Sheriff to whom Townsend reported the incident upon arriving in Long Prairie, and he was not too anxious to talk about it and seemed miffed that no one "official" had come around to look into the report. He did admit, however, that he went out to the site with Townsend and found "oil streaks", on the pavement, and he gave me one of the names of the coon hunters. He said he would talk to one of our investigators, however, so perhaps he was wary of talking too much on the phone.

That's the gist of it. If everything turns out good, this may be one of our cases. I expect the tape on the Red Bluff incident shortly, and will send that transcript, plus the Angleton case plus the Gill (New Guinea) Case.

If you have any suggestions, please pass them on and be assured that we are not "talking". Incidentally, we have a social psychologist working on the Colorado (mainly Denver) sightings of August 1 and 2, and an ex-British Intelligence Agent (now a rancher) on the Wyoming cases.

Our best to Mimi and the children.

Sincerely,

David Townsend - his
parents in Coon Rapids
612-555-1212

Saw in many other towns.

Handled by the
a ball point pen

NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY

Inter-Office Correspondence

DATE

To

FROM

DEPARTMENT

DEPARTMENT

Townsend really scored
- sheds full of notes.

25 other people -

Shaw in Anoka - also saw it

→ Coon hunting.

25 ft high

good reputation

Eagle Band
756-
3594

21 yr -

Aoy

Pelawa

~~Belaway~~

~~Bado~~

Leonard Logan - in Long Prairie
732-2522

Rodor didn't pick it up. —

Long Prairie

Saw Jim Bain some from

612

|

732-233

Townsend.

6" high

stood in front.

stayed out of car - left front fender

3 tripod type legs.

No floor at all

- we then 20 ft. y. there

Thought he was out of gas.

↳
First indication of something wrong
engine stopped

↳ 55 mph.

Lights checked right off -
Very noisy engine. -
56 Chev.

Officer Lubow

Vernon

Long Prairie.

"I have never seen anything like this before" (oil streaks)

Age 20 - single -

- not a "woman lover"

- covered distance to Sheriff in < 4 min.

- Very scared

got taken a hell of a lot & scare him.

his boss believed him.

- called press -

- Press called by Sheriff

- Press called his boss - - -

Man from Holdingford - - - - -
also

KSTP interviewed him -

~~At~~ No sound until it got
off

Hack's passed anyone ever
from long Prain

Above on the road. -

- says lights + engine came on
by themselves! — !!

-

Pulled up after car started again.

- check of road missing
- could have been there before

Car came up from behind. -

-

"I won't laugh -
I saw it also -"

Game warden -

Time Neckish

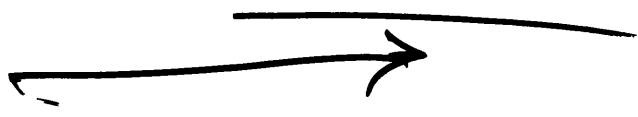
I

~~long Prairie~~

Phone

Brouseville.

732 - 2930



U.S. AIR FORCE TECHNICAL INFORMATION

This questionnaire has been prepared so that you can give the U.S. Air Force as much information as possible concerning the unidentified aerial phenomenon that you have observed. Please try to answer as many questions as you possibly can. The information that you give will be used for research purposes. Your name will ~~not~~ be used in connection with any statements, conclusions, or publications without your permission. We request this personal information so that if it is deemed necessary, we may contact you for further details.

<p>1. When did you see the object?</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.2em;"> <u>23</u> <u>04</u> <u>1965</u> </p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 0.8em;"> Day Month Year </p>	<p>2. Time of day: <u>7:15</u></p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 0.8em;"> Hour Minutes </p> <p>(Circle One): A.M. or P.M.</p>						
<p>3. Time Zone:</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> <p>(Circle One):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Eastern <input type="checkbox"/> b. Central <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> c. Mountain <input type="checkbox"/> d. Pacific <input type="checkbox"/> e. Other _____ </td> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> <p>(Circle One):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Daylight Saving <input type="checkbox"/> b. Standard <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> </td> </tr> </table>		<p>(Circle One):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Eastern <input type="checkbox"/> b. Central <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> c. Mountain <input type="checkbox"/> d. Pacific <input type="checkbox"/> e. Other _____ 	<p>(Circle One):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Daylight Saving <input type="checkbox"/> b. Standard <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 				
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<p>4. Where were you when you saw the object?</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 40%; border-top: 1px solid black; border-bottom: 1px solid black;"></td> <td style="width: 30%; border-top: 1px solid black; border-bottom: 1px solid black;"></td> <td style="width: 30%; border-top: 1px solid black; border-bottom: 1px solid black;"></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center; font-size: 0.8em;">Nearest Postal Address</td> <td style="text-align: center; font-size: 0.8em;">City or Town</td> <td style="text-align: center; font-size: 0.8em;">State or County</td> </tr> </table>					Nearest Postal Address	City or Town	State or County
Nearest Postal Address	City or Town	State or County					
<p>5. How long was object in sight? (Total Duration)</p> <p style="text-align: right; font-size: 1.5em; margin-right: 20px;"><u>5</u> <u>00</u> <u>00</u></p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 0.8em;"> Hours Minutes Seconds </p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Certain b. Fairly certain </td> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> c. Not very sure d. Just a guess </td> </tr> </table> <p>5.1 How was time in sight determined? _____</p> <p>5.2 Was object in sight continuously? Yes _____ No _____</p> <p style="text-align: right; font-size: 1.2em; margin-top: 10px;"><i>5 on ground</i></p> <p style="text-align: right; font-size: 1.2em; margin-top: 10px;"><i>1-2 min</i></p> <p style="text-align: right; font-size: 1.2em; margin-top: 10px;"><i>Took off slowly -</i></p> <p style="text-align: right; font-size: 1.2em; margin-top: 10px;"><i>straight up.</i></p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Certain b. Fairly certain 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> c. Not very sure d. Just a guess 				
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8. IF you saw the object at NIGHT, what did you notice concerning the STARS and MOON?

8.1 STARS (Circle One):

- a. None
- b. A few
- c. Many ✓
- d. Don't remember

8.2 MOON (Circle One):

- a. Bright moonlight
- b. Dull moonlight
- c. No moonlight – pitch dark
- d. Don't remember

9. What were the weather conditions at the time you saw the object?

CLOUDS (Circle One):

- a. Clear sky ✓
- b. Hazy
- c. Scattered clouds
- d. Thick or heavy clouds

WEATHER (Circle One):

- a. Dry
- b. Fog, mist, or light rain
- c. Moderate or heavy rain
- d. Snow
- e. Don't remember

10. The object appeared: (Circle One):

- a. Solid ✓
- b. Transparent
- c. Vapor
- d. As a light
- e. Don't remember

11. If it appeared as a light, was it brighter than the brightest stars? (Circle One):

- a. Brighter
- b. Dimmer
- c. About the same
- d. Don't know

11.1 Compare brightness to some common object:

12. The edges of the object were:

- (Circle One):
- a. Fuzzy or blurred
 - b. Like a bright star
 - c. Sharply outlined
 - d. Don't remember

e. Other _____

13. Did the object:

(Circle One for each question)

- | | | | |
|---|-----|----|------------|
| a. Appear to stand still at any time? | Yes | No | Don't know |
| b. Suddenly speed up and rush away at any time? | Yes | No | Don't know |
| c. Break up into parts or explode? | Yes | No | Don't know |
| d. Give off smoke? | Yes | No | Don't know |
| e. Change brightness? | Yes | No | Don't know |
| f. Change shape? | Yes | No | Don't know |
| g. Flash or flicker? | Yes | No | Don't know |
| h. Disappear and reappear? | Yes | No | Don't know |

14. Did the object disappear while you were watching it? If so, how?

*Stayed - white
- like a town bird*

15. Did the object move behind something at any time, particularly a cloud?

(Circle One): Yes No Don't Know. IF you answered YES, then tell what
it moved behind: _____

16. Did the object move in front of something at any time, particularly a cloud?

(Circle One): Yes No Don't Know. IF you answered YES, then tell what
in front of: _____

17. Tell in a few words the following things about the object:

a. Sound _____

b. Color _____

18. We wish to know the angular size. Hold a match stick at arm's length in line with a known object and note how much of the object is covered by the head of the match. If you had performed this experiment at the time of the sighting, how much of the object would have been covered by the match head?

19. Draw a picture that will show the shape of the object or objects. Label and include in your sketch any details of the object that you saw such as wings, protrusions, etc., and especially exhaust trails or vapor trails. Place an arrow beside the drawing to show the direction the object was moving.

20. Do you think you can estimate the speed of the object?

(Circle One) Yes No

IF you answered YES, then what speed would you estimate? _____

21. Do you think you can estimate how far away from you the object was?

(Circle One) Yes No

IF you answered YES, then how far away would you say it was? _____

22. Where were you located when you saw the object?

(Circle One):

- a. Inside a building
- b. In a car
- c. Outdoors
- d. In an airplane (type)
- e. At sea
- f. Other _____

23. Were you (Circle One)

- a. In the business section of a city?
- b. In the residential section of a city?
- c. In open countryside?
- d. Near an airfield?
- e. Flying over a city?
- f. Flying over open country?
- g. Other _____

24. IF you were MOVING IN AN AUTOMOBILE or other vehicle at the time, then complete the following questions:

24.1 What direction were you moving? (Circle One)

- | | | | |
|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| a. North | c. East | e. South | g. West |
| b. Northeast | d. Southeast | f. Southwest | h. Northwest |

24.2 How fast were you moving? _____ miles per hour.

24.3 Did you stop at any time while you were looking at the object?

(Circle One) Yes No

25. Did you observe the object through any of the following?

- | | | | | | |
|-----------------|-----|----|----------------|-----|----|
| a. Eyeglasses | Yes | No | e. Binoculars | Yes | No |
| b. Sun glasses | Yes | No | f. Telescope | Yes | No |
| c. Windshield | Yes | No | g. Theodolite | Yes | No |
| d. Window glass | Yes | No | h. Other _____ | | |

26. In order that you can give as clear a picture as possible of what you saw, describe in your own words a common object or objects which, when placed up in the sky, would give the same appearance as the object which you saw.

14. Did the object disappear while you were watching it? If so, how?

*Stayed - white
- like a town bird*

15. Did the object move behind something at any time, particularly a cloud?

(Circle One): Yes No Don't Know. IF you answered YES, then tell what
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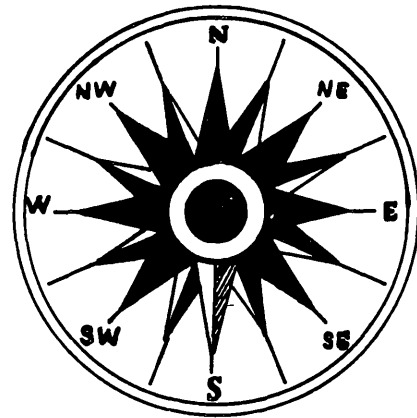
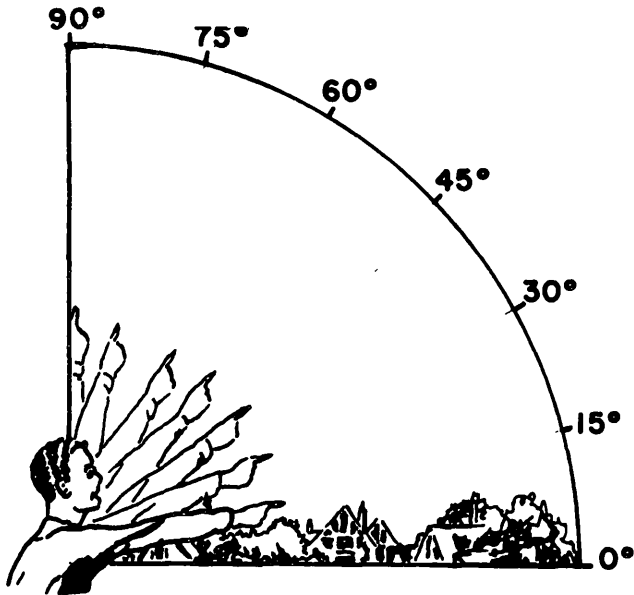
a. Sound _____

b. Color _____

18. We wish to know the angular size. Hold a match stick at arm's length in line with a known object and note how much of the object is covered by the head of the match. If you had performed this experiment at the time of the sighting, how much of the object would have been covered by the match head?

19. Draw a picture that will show the shape of the object or objects. Label and include in your sketch any details of the object that you saw such as wings, protrusions, etc., and especially exhaust trails or vapor trails. Place an arrow beside the drawing to show the direction the object was moving.

27. In the following sketch, imagine that you are at the point shown. Place an "A" on the curved line to show how high the object was above the horizon (skyline) when you *first* saw it. Place a "B" on the same curved line to show how high the object was above the horizon (skyline) when you *last* saw it. Place an "A" on the compass when you *first* saw it. Place a "B" on the compass where you *last* saw the object.



28. Draw a picture that will show the motion that the object or objects made. Place an "A" at the beginning of the path, a "B" at the end of the path, and show any changes in direction during the course.

29. IF there was MORE THAN ONE object, then how many were there? _____
 Draw a picture of how they were arranged, and put an arrow to show the direction that they were traveling.

34. Date you completed this questionnaire:

Day Month Year

35. Information which you feel pertinent and which is not adequately covered in the specific points of the questionnaire or a narrative explanation of your sighting.

23/Oct/65
Long Prairie, Minn

U S. AIR FORCE TECHNICAL INFORMATION

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<p>1. When did you see the object?</p> <p><u>23</u> <u>Oct</u> <u>65</u> Day Month Year</p>	<p>2. Time of day <u>1900</u> <u>15</u> Hour Minutes</p> <p>(Circle One) A.M. or (P.M.)</p>
---	--

3. Time Zone

(Circle One) a. Eastern
b. Central
 c. Mountain
 d. Pacific
 e. Other _____

(Circle One) a. Daylight Saving
b. Standard

4. Where were you when you saw the object?

 Nearest Postal Address City or Town State or County

LONG PRAIRIE MINNESOTA

5. How long was object in sight? (Total Duration)

4 5 00
 Hours Minutes Seconds

a. **Certain**
 b. Fairly certain
 c. Not very sure
 d. Just a guess

5.1 How was time in sight determined? By WRISTWATCH

5.2 Was object in sight continuously? Yes YES No _____

6. What was the condition of the sky?

DAY NIGHT

a. Bright a. **Bright**
 b. Cloudy b. Cloudy

7. IF you saw the object during DAYLIGHT, where was the SUN located as you looked at the object?

(Circle One) a. In front of you
 b. In back of you
 c. To your right
 d. To your left
 e. Overhead
 f. Don't remember

8. IF you saw the object at NIGHT, what did you notice concerning the STARS and MOON?

8.1 STARS (Circle One):

- a. None
- b. A few
- c. Many
- d. Don't remember

8.2 MOON (Circle One):

- a. Bright moonlight
- b. Dull moonlight
- c. No moonlight - pitch dark
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9. What were the weather conditions at the time you saw the object?

CLOUDS (Circle One):

- a. Clear sky
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- c. Scattered clouds
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WEATHER (Circle One):

- a. Dry
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- a. Brighter
- b. Dimmer
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AS BRIGHT AS SUN LIGHT

12. The edges of the object were:

- (Circle One):
- a. Fuzzy or blurred
 - b. Like a bright star
 - c. Sharply outlined
 - d. Don't remember

e. Other _____

13. Did the object:

(Circle One for each question)

- | | | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------|
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| b. Suddenly speed up and rush away at any time? | Yes | <input checked="" type="radio"/> No | Don't know |
| c. Break up into parts or explode? | Yes | <input checked="" type="radio"/> No | Don't know |
| d. Give off smoke? | Yes | <input checked="" type="radio"/> No | Don't know |
| e. Change brightness? | Yes | <input checked="" type="radio"/> No | Don't know |
| f. Change shape? | Yes | <input checked="" type="radio"/> No | Don't know |
| g. Flash or flicker? | Yes | <input checked="" type="radio"/> No | Don't know |
| h. Disappear and reappear? | Yes | <input checked="" type="radio"/> No | Don't know |

14. Did the object disappear while you were watching it? If so, how?

IT TOOK OFF STRAIGHT UP AND THEN THE LIGHT WENT OFF

15. Did the object move behind something at any time, particularly a cloud?

(Circle One): Yes No Don't Know. IF you answered YES, then tell what it moved behind: _____

16. Did the object move in front of something at any time, particularly a cloud?

(Circle One): Yes No Don't Know. IF you answered YES, then tell what in front of: _____

17. Tell in a few words the following things about the object:

a. Sound A LOUD HUM, IT HURT MY EARS

b. Color A BRIGHT METALLIC SHINE

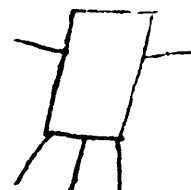
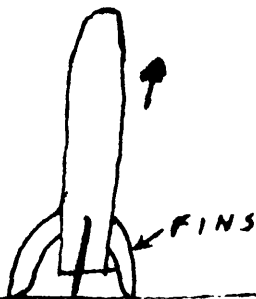
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VERY LITTLE

19. Draw a picture that will show the shape of the object or objects. Label and include in your sketch any details of the object that you saw such as wings, protrusions, etc., and especially exhaust trails or vapor trails.

Place an arrow beside the drawing to show the direction the object was moving.

ABOUT 10' IN DIAMETER
" 30'-40' IN HEIGHT



SHAPES LIKE
A TIN CAN ON
MATCH STICK
LEGS

20. Do you think you can estimate the speed of the object?

(Circle One) Yes No

IF you answered YES, then what speed would you estimate? ABOUT 20 MPH

21. Do you think you can estimate how far away from you the object was?

(Circle One) Yes No

IF you answered YES, then how far away would you say it was? 20 FT.

22. Where were you located when you saw the object?

(Circle One):

- a. Inside a building
- b. In a car
- c. Outdoors
- d. In an airplane (type)
- e. At sea
- f. Other _____

23. Were you (Circle One)

- a. In the business section of a city?
- b. In the residential section of a city?
- c. In open countryside?
- d. Near an airfield?
- e. Flying over a city?
- f. Flying over open country?
- g. Other _____

24. IF you were MOVING IN AN AUTOMOBILE or other vehicle at the time, then complete the following questions:

24.1 What direction were you moving? (Circle One)

- | | | | |
|--------------|--------------|--------------|--|
| a. North | c. East | e. South | <input checked="" type="radio"/> g. West |
| b. Northeast | d. Southeast | f. Southwest | h. Northwest |

24.2 How fast were you moving? 55 miles per hour.

24.3 Did you stop at any time while you were looking at the object?

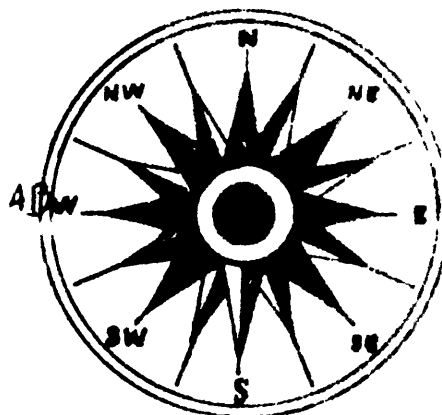
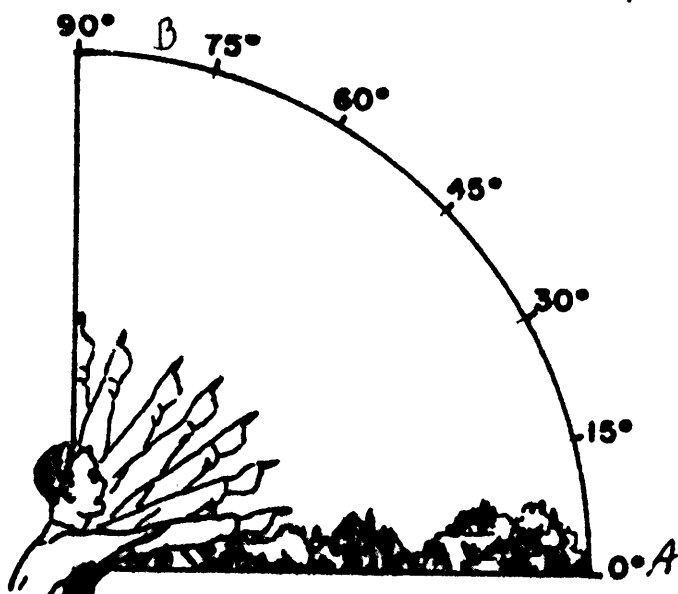
(Circle One) Yes No

25. Did you observe the object through any of the following?

- | | | | | | |
|-----------------|-----|----|----------------|-----|----|
| a. Eyeglasses | Yes | No | e. Binoculars | Yes | No |
| b. Sun glasses | Yes | No | f. Telescope | Yes | No |
| c. Windshield | Yes | No | g. Theodolite | Yes | No |
| d. Window glass | Yes | No | h. Other _____ | | |

26. In order that you can give as clear a picture as possible of what you saw, describe in your own words a common object or objects which, when placed up in the sky, would give the same appearance as the object which you saw.

27. In the following sketch, imagine that you are at the point shown. Place an "A" on the curved line to show how high the object was above the horizon (skyline) when you first saw it. Place a "B" on the same curved line to show how high the object was above the horizon (skyline) when you last saw it. Place an "A" on the compass when you first saw the object. Place a "B" on the compass where you last saw the object.



28. Draw a picture that will show the motion that the object or objects made. Place an "A" at the beginning of the path, a "B" at the end of the path, and show any changes in direction during the course.

STRAIGHT UP

29. IF there was MORE THAN ONE object, then how many were there? 4 IN ALL
Draw a picture of how they were arranged, and put an arrow to show the direction that they were traveling.

THE ONE OBJECT WAS A SPACE SHIP
THE OTHER OBJECTS WERE LITTLE CREATURES

30. Have you ever seen this, or a similar object before. If so give date or dates and location.

NO

31. Was anyone else with you at the time you saw the object? (Circle One) Yes No

31.1 IF you answered YES, did they see the object too? (Circle One) Yes No

31.2 Please list their names and addresses:

32. Please give the following information about yourself:

NAME TOWNSEND JAMES FLOYD
Last Name First Name Middle Name

ADDRESS 25 N. TODD ST. LONG PRAIRIE MINNESOTA
Street City Zone State

TELEPHONE NUMBER 252-3233 AGE 20 SEX M

Indicate any additional information about yourself, including any special experience, which might be pertinent.

33. When and to whom did you report that you had seen the object?

23 OCT. 195
Day Month Year

SHERIFF JIM BAIN
TODD COUNTY
SHERIFFS OFFICE

23/0ct/65 CF-III

34. Date you completed this questionnaire: 20 Nov. 65
Day Month Year

35. Information which you feel pertinent and which is not adequately covered in the specific points of the questionnaire or a narrative explanation of your sighting.

Perhaps it would be better if I gave you a detailed description of the U-F-O that I saw and you would be better able to understand it than if I answered this questionnaire. I was driving west on Minn. highway 27 when I went around a bend in the road and my car engine stoped running and my headlights went off. I looked up and saw this object setting in the middle of the road. It was around 7:15 PM because I had just checked my watch about a minute before so I know what time it was. I finally coasted to a stop about 20 ft. from it. My knowledge of math and being able to tell distances quite accuratly made this quite impossable to mistake. I set and looked at it for what I would estimate a minute then I know what it was and knew that nobody would believe me so I decided that I would have to knock it over and have some evidentence. I tryed to start my car but it would not start, I did not get any respoce on my starter. I then got out of my car with the idea to go up to it and try to rock the center of graviy and topple it over so I would have the evidentence right there in black and white. I got to the front of my car and stoped with no further interest in going any further because three little "creatures" came from around behind and stood in front of the object. I think that they were looking at me, I can n t be sure because I did not see any eyes of any sort. I know that I was looking at them and I was quite fasinated at what I sa. You might ask me why, if

I was willing to go up to them before, I did not go up to them now I used what I hope was common sense I felt if they could stop my car like they did they could surely do something worse to me and I wanted to live to tell this story so the people of the United States would know that there were things of this nature I will tell you right now that I think you are doing the people of the US a grave crime not to let them know that there are things of this nature We stood and looked at them for what seemed to me to be ages I can safely say that we "looked" at each other for about 3 minutes They then turned and went under the object and a few seconds later the object started to rise slowly After it was about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile high (this is only a guess) the light went out and my car engine started to run again (I did not have to touch the starter) and my headlights came on I looked the area that it had been setting on and could see no evidences that it had been on the ground I then drove to the Todd County Sheriff's office and reported what I had seen to the sheriff We went back out to the spot and the sheriff could not find any thing on the road that would show that they were on the ground That is what happened I know that It is quite a wild story but if you do not believe me well that's your tough luck

Thank you,

James Floyd Townsend
James Floyd Townsend

Miner call

Dr. Robert Plank
2387 Overlook Road
Cleveland, Ohio 44106
Dec. 14, 1965

J. Allen Hynek
Director,
Dearborn Observatory
Northwestern University
Evanston, Ill. 60201

Dear Dr. Hynek:

Thanks very much for your letter and for the report of a UFO sighting that you were kind enough to enclose. I found it fascinating and am very glad to tell you what I think about it, but I am afraid that I can only contribute a few rather tangential remarks.

1. The three principal possibilities to consider are: hoax (and a man may perpetrate a hoax for many different reasons, such as to win a bet, to gain attention, to show up how credulous people are, to conceal his real activities); hallucination; actual perception, more or less embroidered, of an objective phenomenon. I believe that much more information would be needed before one could even guess which of the three is present. One would have to know more about the circumstances, and especially about the person.

When, for instance, a man is worked up for treatment at the clinic where I work, he gets a good neuropsychiatric examination - in a case like this, the emphasis would be on ruling out propensity to hysterical and epileptic attacks - psychological testing, social work study. I am not suggesting, of course, that people who report UFOs should have such study done; I feel that our present society is already too investigative. I am merely saying that without such studies we just do not have enough to go by.

2. There is a certain set, or mood, that is characteristic of the scene in which UFO sighting, particularly those involving alleged humanoids, seem to occur. In this case, it was evening, the man was traveling alone, evidently on a little traveled road (it appears that during the 5 minutes that the episode lasted, no car came either way). The man may have been upset by the sudden stalling of his car (it is also possible that in some sort of spell he may unconsciously have switched it off). There is something eerie about the scene, enhanced by the sudden bright light. Some of these elements are usually present in reports of visions - from Moses' burning bush to encounters with elves and the like. The difference seems cultural: where in ages past people used to encounter spirits, they now encounter flying saucers.

3. In contrast to the scientific attitude, which I tried to approximate in paragraph 1, above, and which is marked by tolerance of uncertainty, flying saucer sightings seem to be characterized by a quest for certainty; perceptions are interpreted without sound basis. You

know of course better than I how often we hear of estimates of distance or speed when it is obvious that no such estimate can be made without knowledge of the size of the object involved (if it is an object) or availability of some reference point. The more remarkable thing is that the public at large seems to accept such estimates at face value when it is patently impossible to arrive at any estimate.

In this case, this isn't even as bad as in many others. Still, the man bases his estimate of distance and size of the "space ship" (10 x 30-40 feet, at a distance of 20 feet) on nothing more specific than his "knowledge of math" when he seems to have no way of knowing whether the object may not have been, say three times as big and 60 feet away. He equally readily interprets the percepts of three objects around and under the large objects as "creatures", though they could just as well ~~xx~~ have been inanimate appendages; he merely describes them as "little" and states that he did not see any eyes of any sort.

4. There are two (albeit, slight) paranoid elements in the story: The feeling of being looked at (which is considered as pathognomic, for instance, in the Rorschach test) and the readiness with which the Air Force is accused of "a grave crime" for allegedly concealing information on UFOs.

This, I feel, is as far as I can go on the basis of this report alone. I know this isn't much, but I would surely rather live with uncertainty and say that I simply do not know what the man saw, than to fall into his pattern of interpreting material without sufficient clues.

I hope that in spite of the admitted meagreness of my remarks they may be of some use to you. I would certainly be glad to be of help. Let me be immodest enough to add that all information of this sort is of the greatest interest to me and that I am thankful for any that you may be able to communicate to me.

Sincerely yours,

